

REMARKS

Claims 16 to 30 are pending in this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that all of the priority document copies have been received.

Claims 5 to 9 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Claims 5 to 9 were canceled in Applicants' earlier filed Preliminary Amendment, filed on March 9, 2001. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the canceled claims.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 10 to 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,623,539 to Bassenyemukasa et al. ("Bassenyemukasa reference") in view of US Patent No. 5,926,533 to Gasinsboro ("Gasinsboro reference"). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Bassenyemukasa reference in view of the Gasinsboro reference and further in view of US Patent No. 5,806,040 to Vensko ("Vensko reference"). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Bassenyemukasa reference in view of the Gasinsboro reference and further in view of US Patent No. 5,502,759 to Cheng et al. ("Cheng reference"). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,717,743 to McMahan et al. ("McMahan reference") in view of the Gasinsboro reference. All claims 1 through 15 were canceled in Applicants' Preliminary Amendment filed on March 9, 2001. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment is attached hereto for the Examiner's reference.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration of Applicants' new claims 16 to 30 as submitted in Applicants' Preliminary Amendment. Applicants believe that new claims 16 to 30 are allowable over the cited art in the Office Action including the Bassenyemukasa reference, the Gasinsboro reference, the Vensko reference, the Cheng reference and the McMahan reference because the references do not teach or describe each and every feature in the manner claimed in the present application. Accordingly, Applicants request consideration and allowance of its pending claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the current claims are in condition for allowance and the objection and rejection of the canceled claims should be withdrawn.

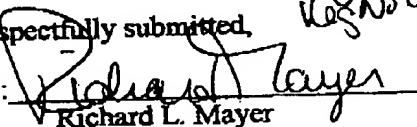
CONCLUSION


In view of all of the above, it is believed that the objection and rejection of the canceled claims should be withdrawn, and that the Application and its new claims, are allowable over the cited art and are in a condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that any objections/rejections be withdrawn and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Dated: April 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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